

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
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Palmer, AK 99645

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MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: August milk production of 1.1 million pounds is down from last month's production of 1.3 million pounds. Production per cow, at 930 pounds, was 180 pounds below the previous month and is down from 1,100 pounds from last August. The number of milk cows, at 1,200 head, is the same number as last year.

Accumulated milk production of 9.8 million pounds during the first eight months of 2005 was down from the 10.0 million pounds during the same period in 2004.

Milk production in the **23 Major States** during August totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from August 2004. July revised production, at 13.7 billion pounds, was up 4.2 percent from July 2004. The July revision represented a decrease of 6 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,665 pounds for August, 64 pounds above August 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.15 million head, 52,000 head more than August 2004, and 9,000 head more than July 2005.

2003 ALASKA POTATO CROP UTILIZATION & VALUE

Alaska potato producers sold 116,000 cwt. of potatoes from the 2004 crop, or 66% of total production. Sales from the 2003 crop were 105,000 cwt. or 63% of production. Sales include table stock, seed, and livestock feed. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 43,000 cwt. in 2004, while farm disposition accounted for 18,000 cwt. Harvest of the 2005 crop is underway.

ALASKA POTATO DISPOSITION 2002 - 2004

Items	2002	2003	2004
Cwt.			
Total Production	154,000	168,000	177,000
Farm Disposition 1/	26,000	18,000	18,000
Shrinkage & Loss	21,000	45,000	43,000
Sold	107,000	105,000	116,000
Dollars			
\$ Per Cwt.	20.00	19.70	19.60
Value of Production	3,080,000	3,310,000	3,469,000
Value of Sales	2,140,000	2,069,000	2,274,000

1/ Household use, livestock feed and seed used on farm where grown

ALASKA CROP AND WEATHER UPDATE

As of September 18th, the barley crop was reported as 95% harvested. Last year 95% of the crop was harvested at this time, the 5 year average is 65% harvested. Oats were reported as 90% harvested. Last year 95% of the crop was harvested at this time, the 5 year average is 45%. Potatoes were reported as 40% harvested, last year 50% of the crop was harvested. The five year average is 59% harvested. Late blight has been reported in many fields across the Mat-Su Valley. Second cutting of hay was at 65% complete statewide, as rain hampered harvest. Due to weather conditions the percent harvested varied across the State with the Tanana Valley reporting 90% harvested, the Mat-Su Valley 25%, Kenai 95%, and Homer with little to no second cutting complete. Winter supplies of hay were reported as 5% short, 90% adequate, 5% surplus, with a surplus of hay being reported only in the Tanana Valley.

«districtid» «countyid» «poid» AS«activestat»
«opername»
«wholename»
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«placename», «statealpha» «zip5»-«zip4»

HOW AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS BENEFIT YOU

Benefits to the Crop Farmers

- Yields are used for determining crop insurance premiums and payments.
- Acreage, yield and production surveys provide county data used for farm program payments.
- Crop acreage, production, and stocks reports help stabilize prices by squelching rumors and eliminating surprises on the market.
- Crop production forecasts remove elements of surprise, so utilization decisions can be made with greater confidence.
- Planting intentions reports alert farmers to anticipated shortages or surpluses in time to change their own plans prior to planting.
- Crop statistics provide more equal bargaining, with seller and buyer having the same basic facts. Neither has an unfair advantage by collecting his own facts.

ALASKA FARMERS

Mailing of the 2005 Acreage and Production Survey will occur on September 30, 2005. As always, responses will be kept confidential and your participation in this survey is strictly voluntary. The data collected is used to produce year end estimates for Alaska's major crops. PLEASE take a minute to assist in this process. We will try calling if your report isn't received by mail. Information from this survey will be published in the November Farm Reporter.

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reports at:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak>

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